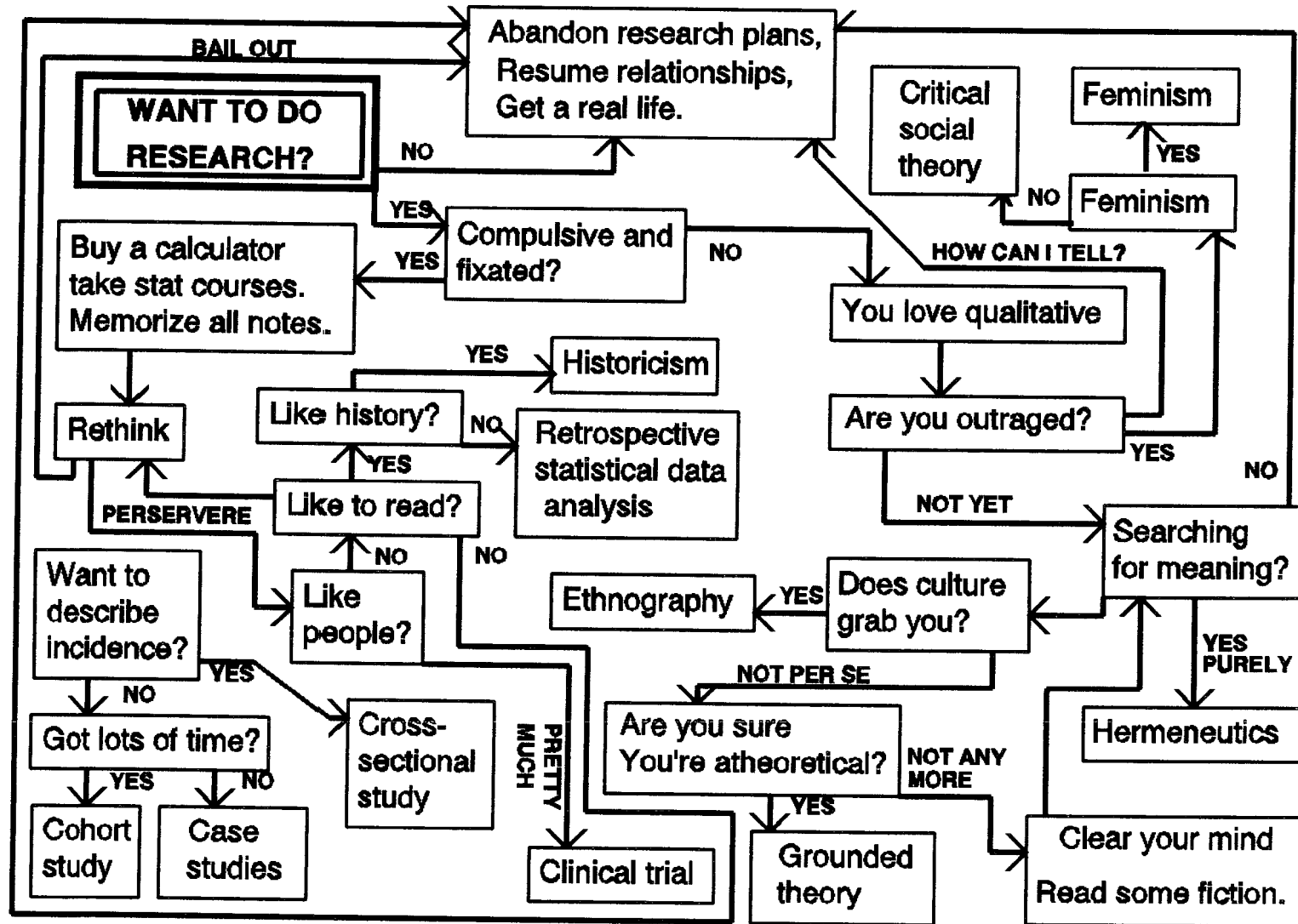


Researching Worldviews

CHOOSE YOUR METHOD

Suzanne Sutherland



STEPS IN MISSIOLOGICAL THEOLOGY

1. PHENOMENOLOGY:

- **study the culture from your view**
- **learn to see the culture through the eyes of the people: emic analysis**
- **develop a metacultural grid to compare and evaluate the two: etic analysis**

2. ONTOLOGY:

- **study biblical teachings on the issue**
- **do a 'reality test' on the issue**

3. MISSIOLOGY:

- **evaluate the matter in the light of Scripture and the 'reality test'**
- **help the people move from where they are to where they should be**

STUDYING HUMANS

- **physical realities**
- **biological realities**
- **psychological realities**
- **social realities**
- **cultural realities**
- **spiritual realities**
- **work of God**

TYPES OF MISSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

- **Theological**
- **Historical**
- **Human studies**

PURPOSES FOR MISSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

- **To gather information to make decisions**
- **to raise awareness**
- **to correct a course of action**
- **to empower the community we serve to take action**
- **to see ourselves**

THE RESEARCH SPIRAL

- **Research Concern [RC]**
- **Problem Statement [PS]**
- **Data needed to answer the problem**
- **Data we can get**
- **Problem Statement our data will answer**
- **Research Questions [Rqs]**
- **Methods for gathering the data**
- **Methods for analyzing the data**

THE RESEARCH CYCLE

1. Research Concern [RC]

- purpose and motivation of study

2. Theoretical/Theological Frame [TF]

- precedent literature and theoretical model you will use in the dissertation

3. Problem Statement [PS]

- specific question/hypothesis of study

4. Data needed to answer PSS

5. Data you and get

6. PS the data you get will answer

7. Research Questions [Rqs]

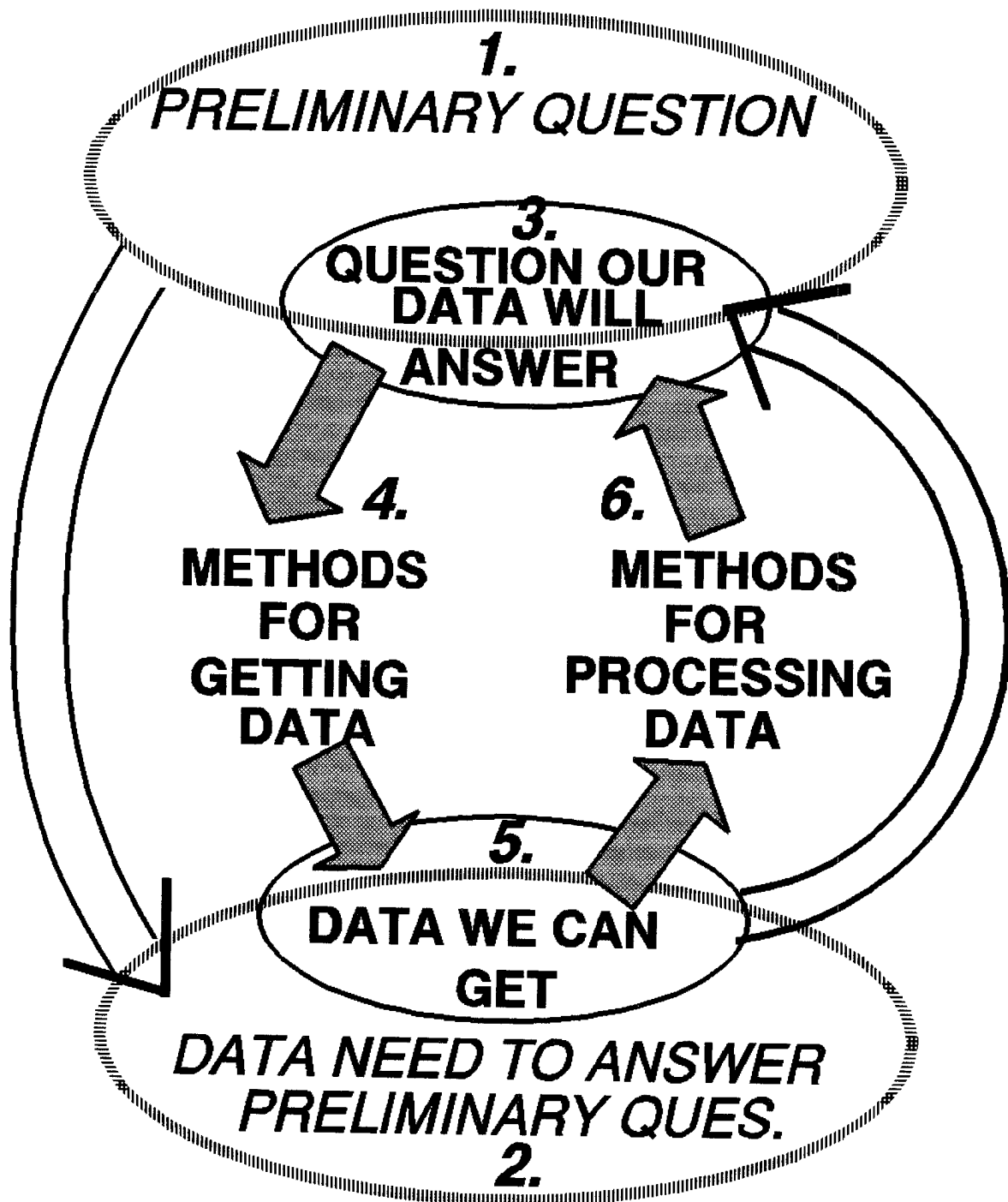
- researchable questions emerging out of the new PS

8. Methods for gathering the data

9. Methods for processing the data

10. Outline of dissertation

THE RESEARCH SPIRAL



ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS

PARTICIPANT-OBSERVATION

- Observation*
- Participant-Observation*
- Interview*
- Key Informant*
- Systems Analysis*
- Case Study*
- Grounded Theory*
- Surveys*
- Questionnaire*
- Experiment*

Quantitative

Particulars, uniquenesses

In-depth, fine grained

Personal

Qualitative

Generalizations

Survey, broad

Systems

FORMAL EXPERIMENTATION

RESEARCH METHODS

MICRO

MACRO



"Street level"

Qualitative

See particulars

In depth

See people

**Use: local planning
by missionary**

"Balcony"

Quantitative

Seek generalities

Survey

See units

**Use: overall
planning by
mission board**

APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF HUMAN SITUATIONS

MACRO ANALYSIS

- balcony view
- demographic, macro, quantitative, survey
big picture
- detached observations
etic, scientific
- reductionist, focus on a few variables

USEFUL FOR MISSION EXECUTIVES

MICRO ANALYSIS

- street level view
- participant-observation,
micro, qualitative, thick
description, human view
- involvement with people,
emic/etic, humanistic
- wholistic, many variables,

USEFUL FOR FIELD MISSIONARIES

SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS OF ANALYSIS

Observation

Participant Observation

Interviews

*Analysis of Linguistic
Categories*

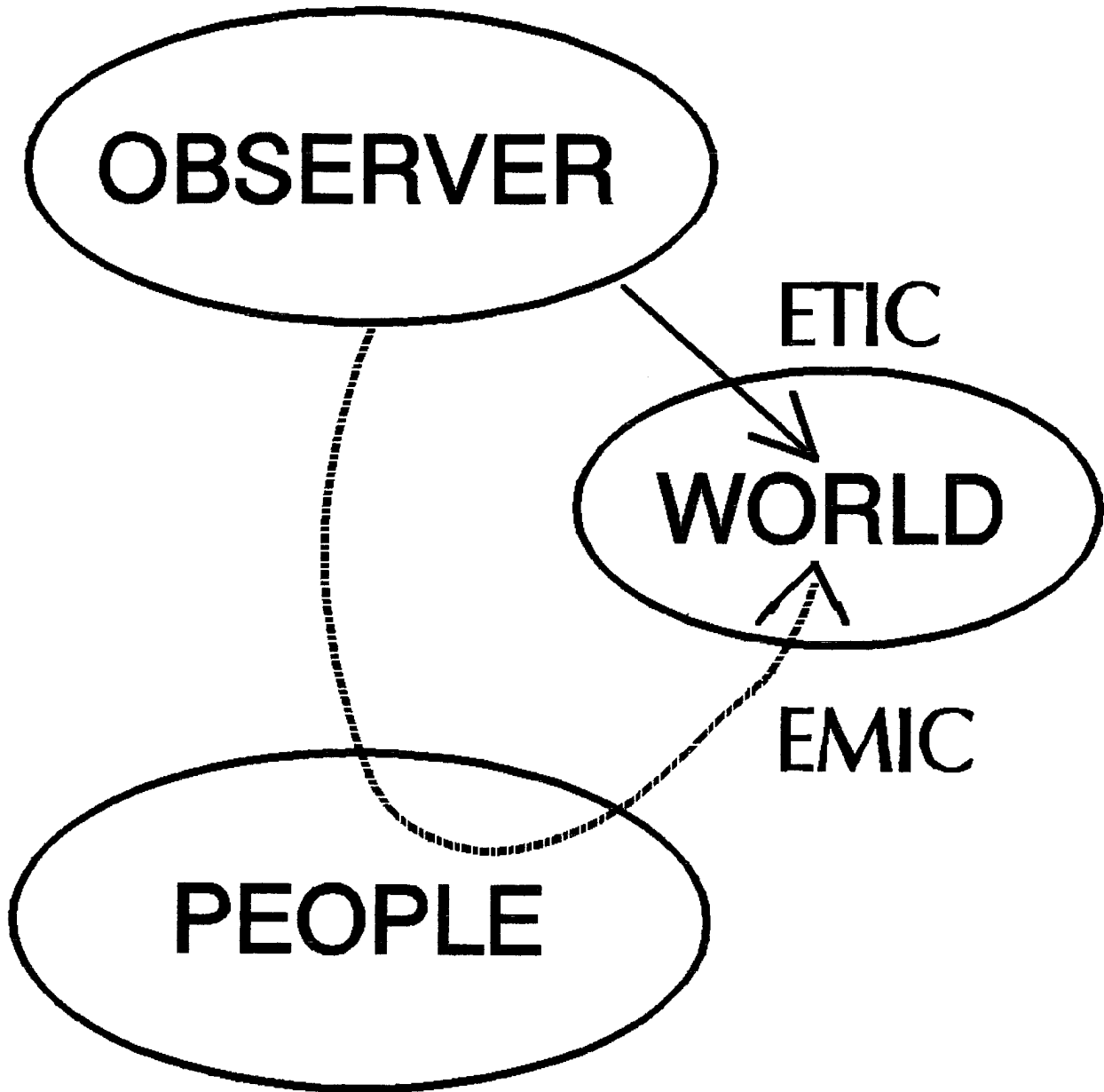
Questionnaires

ETHNOGRAPHY DATA COLLECTION

Field Projects in Anthropology
by Crane & Angrosino (1992)

- 1) Proxemics
- 2) Maps
- 3) Kinship
- 4) Interviews
- 5) Participant observation
- 6) Life histories
- 7) Personal documentation
- 8) Cultural history
- 9) Folklore
- 10) Ethnosemantics
- 11) Surveys
- 12) Formal organizations
- 13) Photographs
- 14) Community studies

PARTICIPANT-OBSERVATION



PARTICIPANT-OBSERVATION

OBSERVER

OBSERVER AS
PARTICIPANT

PARTICIPANT AS
OBSERVER

PARTICIPANT

EMIC

ETIC

"INSIDER"



"OUTSIDER"

Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in Missiological Research

QUALITATIVE METHODS ----- **QUANTITATIVE METHODS**
single case ---- multiple cases ---><-----grounded theory-----><-----statistical sample ----- population study

Focus on particularity and ideographic: notes differences as well as commonalities:

- the uniqueness of each case is preserved, stressed and explained. explained
- uses etic or emic perspectives, or seeks to combine them in rich textured analysis. Categories emerge during the research.
- stresses 'thick' ethnographic descriptions. Depth of analysis. See task as a mystery plot to unravel. Like a doctor diagnosing a disease.
- open ended, seeks to discover new ideas and insights
- may use several complementary theories to explain the data.
- uses inference, weighted judgments as well as formal logic.
- does not necessarily differentiate between independent and dependent variables. Systems approach to causality.

Focus on the human nature of the data.

- emphasis on subjective nature of data.
- use hermetical methods, seeking to 'get into the minds of other people.
- see logic, emotions and teleology as legitimate ways to explain human behavior.

Ethnographic methods

- unobtrusive, participant-observation, open interviews, key informants, focus groups, network analysis, and so on
- open ended, methods reshaped in the field
- requires considerable time and energy
- gathers diverse and fragmented data as clues to understanding.

Focus on generalities, seeking to formulate general nomothetic laws

- the common characteristics of cases are stressed, uniquenesses and exceptions are ignored.
- uses mainly etic perspectives. Categories and variables are determined before hand.
- seeks to control factors in order to examine a few important variables.
- tests predetermined hypothesis formulated on the basis of theories. Tendency towards reductionism.
- tests one central theory.
- uses algorithmic, formal, propositional logic.
- differentiates between independent and dependent variables. Linear view of causality.

Focus on the formal and factor nature of data.

- look for objective, quantifiable data
- use instruments and other objective methods to gather data.
- look for invariant, objective causality.

Objective methods for gathering data.

- use controlled experiments, formal questionnaires, uniform standardized conditions, carefully calibrated instruments to measure variables.
- uses experimental and control groups.
- uses quantitative measurements and statistics.

ETHNOGRAPHY

Social

Economic

Political/legal

Symbols

Beliefs

Worldview

ETHNOLOGY

Culture A

Culture B

Culture C

Culture D

Culture E

	Culture A	Culture B	Culture C	Culture D	Culture E
Social					
Economic					
Political/legal					
Symbols					
Beliefs					
Worldview					

- MIND

SCIENCE: PROBLEM SOLVING

Rationality - related to problem solving effectiveness.

→ Satisfactory solutions to important problems

→ Adequate (not necessarily true) solutions to significant problems.

I EMPIRICAL PROBLEMS: "FIRST ORDER"

II TYPES

? - UNSOLVED { - UNCERTAINTY OF FACTS
- QUESTION OF DOMAIN

- SOLVED } Relevant
? - ANOMALOUS

1. 2. DEFINITIONS: COMMENTS

PROGRESS: UNSOLVED & ANOMALOUS
PROBLEMS → SOLVED PROBLEMS

SOLUTIONS: ALWAYS APPROXIMATE,
FREQUENTLY NONPERMANENT

ANOMALOUS PROBLEMS: DO NOT
DIS PROVE BUT RAISE QUESTIONS.

— TEST NETWORKS OF THEORIES
AND METHODS.

13. WEIGHTING OF PROBLEMS

3.1 UNSOLVED PROBLEMS INFLATED BY:

- SOLUTIONS
- ARCHETYPAL CONSTRUCTION
- GENERALITY

3.2 UNSOLVED PROBLEMS DEFLATED BY:

- DISSOLUTION
- DOMAIN MODIFICATION
- ARCHETYPAL "

3.3 ANOMALOUS PROBLEMS

- NUMBER
- EPISTEMIC THREAT
- DEGREE OF DISCREPANCY
- AGE AND RESISTANCE OF PROBLEM TO SOLUTION

II CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS

2.1 TYPES

- INTERNAL : AMBIGUITY, CIRCULARITY_{ITS}
- EXTERNAL :
 - = WITH OTHER RESEARCH PARADIGMS
 - = WITH WORLD VIEWS

2.2 RATIONALITY

- TO MAXIMIZE THE SCOPE OF SOLVED EMPIRICAL PROBLEMS -
WHILE MINIMIZING THE SCOPE OF ANOMALOUS AND CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS.

III RESEARCH TRADITIONS

3.1 NATURE

- HAS A NUMBER OF THEORIES
- HAS METAPHYSICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL COMMITMENTS
- HAS A LONG HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT
- PROVIDES GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEORIES
- ONTOLOGICAL "DOS" & "DONT'S"
- DO NOT PROVIDE DETAILED ANSWERS AND ARE NOT DIRECTLY TESTABLE

3.2 FUNCTIONS OF R.T.

- DEFINES DOMAIN
- GENERATES CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS
 - = CONSTRAINING ROLE
 - = HEURISTIC ROLE
- SUGGESTS METHODS
- JUSTIFIES THEORIES
- PROVIDES ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT WORLD, ENTITIES, RELATIONSHIPS ETC.